

CONFIDENTIAL  
Security Information

TAB A

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

July 31, 1953

Dear Mr. Amory:

Reference is made to Mr. Armstrong's letter to Mr. Dulles of March 25, 1953, and Mr. Becker's reply of April 3, 1953, regarding the acquisition of foreign publications for intelligence purposes. Together with other officers of my staff I have carefully considered the staff study and recommendations prepared by the representatives designated in the above letters.

We have concluded that the intent of NSCID-16 can best be carried out by transferring to CIA the functions now performed by the Foreign Publications Branch of the Acquisition and Distribution Division. The centralization in one agency, under single direction, of the related activities of collection and exploitation of foreign language publications, will, we are convinced, make this source more valuable for intelligence and national security purposes than would be possible if these functions remained divided between CIA and the Department of State. The Department accordingly approves the staff study and its recommendations.

If agreeable to you, I suggest that appropriate officers of your staff consult with Mr. Wordbeck and Mr. James Ennis of my Executive Staff, to arrange for orderly implementation of the recommendations.

Sincerely yours,

/s/  
Fisher Howe  
Acting

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

Mr. Robert Amory,  
Deputy Director,  
Central Intelligence Agency.

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